The Compassion Rose Project

Project lead: Alison Richards CNS End of Life Care

End of life Care Team Lead: Hannah McClean

An outstanding experience for every patient
The expectation that we can be immersed in suffering and loss daily and not be touched by it, is as unrealistic as expecting to be able to walk through water without getting wet.

Naomi Rachel Remett
Why was the Compassion Rose project developed?

- to reintroduce a nursing tradition of placing a flower with the deceased
- concern that our staff may suffer ‘compassion fatigue’
- enabling staff to demonstrate compassion and respect for our deceased
- promote excellent care after death
What is the project and how was it set up?
What makes the Compassion Rose project so special?

By demonstrating compassion and respect for our deceased, the project benefits the wellbeing of the crafter, the giver and the deceased’s loved ones.
What makes this project unique?

Only healthcare setting in UK

5. All staff are prepared to care
   Wherever I am, health and care staff bring empathy, skills and expertise and give me competent, confident and compassionate care.

6. Each community is prepared to help
   I live in a community where everybody recognises that we all have a role to play in supporting each other in times of crisis and loss. People are ready, willing and confident to have conversations about living and dying well and to support each other in emotional and practical ways.
The Crafters

Time given by a volunteer to create something for someone they will never meet and whom will never know.
The Crafters

Even if you are feeling rubbish and can’t improve your own day, it can make you feel a whole lot better to know you’ve improved someone else’s.

I get a feel-good factor that I’ve done something nice for a person who I will never meet.

Volunteer crafters, Salisbury NHSFT Compassion Rose engagement survey (2019)
Marie Curie Survey (2018)²: 1:3 nurses feel they are not sufficiently supported at work to manage grief and emotional stress from caring for dying patients.

3 out of 4 nurses felt an emotional response most/every time a patient died.

9 out of 10 felt care provided after death was important/very important to help cope.

Every respondent: very important to continue respect & dignity after death.

Salisbury NHSFT Staff survey (2019) N=158
The Givers

- 73% demonstrated individualised care
- Over half felt roses increased level of satisfaction with level of care they had provided
- 9/10 felt compassion roses increased dignity & respect shown to deceased

Salisbury NHSFT Staff survey (2019) N=158
“It helps us recognise the bond between a nurse and a patient, and humanises the end of the journey as we say goodbye”

Norma Noyce, Staff Nurse Farley Stroke unit
The receiver
The importance of respect and dignity

When it comes to human dignity, we cannot make compromises.

-Angela Merkel

Redfern Report, 2010

Francis Report, 2013

Neuberger Report, 2013
Caring with compassion for people at the end of their lives should be the aim of all doctors, nurses and healthcare staff. Exceptional standards of care are required ... yet exceptional standards are all too often noticeable by their absence.

More Care Less Pathway, 2013
What makes this project exciting?

How does the Compassion Rose project have the potential to improve End of Life experiences of thousands of people across the UK?

• Replicable in other organisations
• Low cost - approximately £18 per year for materials (800 roses)
• Potential to self run - a simple project that could be coordinated by voluntary staff
• Engagement events support the breaking of taboos and starting conversations about death and dying
Compassion Rose engagement events

Using sessions to:

- Explain the project
- Promote dignity & respect for end of life patients
- Meet the EOLC, chaplaincy & palliative care teams
- Talk about death & dying in a relaxed environment

Providing Information on:

- Advanced Care Planning
- Planning Funerals
- Bereavement Support
- Writing Wills
Next steps

Implementation packs are available from alison.richards11@nhs.net

Including:
• Costings
• How to set up a project in your own trust, including workshops and engagement events
• How to make a compassion rose (written instructions and film)
• The importance of quality control
• Templates for roses, label and box inserts

Winners of Salisbury NHSFT Service improvement awards

Finalists for NT Awards Enhancing Patient Dignity

Proud to be presenting at Wessex Safety, Quality & Improvement Conference
"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."

Mother Teresa
Thank you for listening
References


